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## First Lady Maryann Tulafono appeals to the general public

This year's Territorial Christmas Program concluded with First Lady Maryann Tulafono appealing to local residents about preventing domestic violence and drunk driving, especially during this holiday season.

Maryann is at the forefront of advocacy against alcohol related crimes.

In her speech, the First Lady cautioned the territory's drivers to refrain from driving under the influence.

"I strongly advise our people that during this joyous and festive time of the year, if you know you have consumed alcohol, please do not drive," she urged, adding that spouses, particularly wives, need to step up and talk to their loved ones about driving drunk.

"Don't let your happiness turn into sadness and suffering because of drunk driving," Maryann advised, noting that the lives of both the drivers and passengers are at risk when alcohol is involved.

The First Lady's speech comes during the holidays when the number of local people arrested and jailed for driving under the influence is at its highest compared to the rest of the year. In addition, Christmas and New Year's is also the time when a high number of public peace disturbances (PPD) occur, resulting in police officers working extra hours trying to monitor all areas across the island.

Speaking out about alcohol related crimes including domestic violence, Maryann said, "I advise all husbands that if you have been drinking, please control and find peaceful resolution to your anger. Alcohol and intoxication are often the cause of many domestic problems including abuse."

Within the past year, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) has heightened its efforts to develop more programs that address domestic violence and child abuse in the territory, working together with the Coalition against Domestic Violence and with support from groups like the one led by the First Lady, to spearhead an anti-domestic violence movement in the territory.

The movement has different ways of getting their message across, including the use of broadcast media and billboards posted all over the territory displaying messages against violence and alcohol abuse.

Before the Territorial Christmas Program officially concluded, the First Lady was assisted by others in distributing red ribbons which symbolize the movement by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and the Drug Abuse Resistance Program (DARE).

In closing, Maryann cautioned all drivers to observe and obey the seat belt laws of the territory.

The First Lady's message will be enforced by the Department of Public Safety officers who will be out and about during the holiday season conducting roadblocks to ensure that the safety of the territory's residents are protected.

*(See the First Lady's remarks at the Christmas music festival on page 2)*



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!





***First Lady  
Mary  
Tulafono's  
Remarks  
at the ASG  
Christmas  
Music  
Festival  
December  
14, 2007***

Season's greetings. During this Holiday Season we celebrate both the birth of Christ and the gift of life. Especially this season, we celebrate and give thanks for the freedom we enjoy because of the sacrifices our men and women in the military services.

As we celebrate this joyous occasion with our family and friends, I implore each and every one of you, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle and especially young adults and the youth – please **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE**. Help me to deliver this important appeal by supporting the Mothers Against Drunk Driving's national campaign to eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking in our community.

Founded 27 years ago as a national non-profit, MADD seeks to eradicate drunk driving and underage drinking through public policy, education, and civic responsibility. MADD has zero tolerance for selling alcohol to minors. I joined the MADD campaign not just as First Lady or as a member of the National Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free but also as a mother, an aunt, a sister and a friend who believed that we can prevent alcohol-related tragedies.

Tragedies and deaths caused by drunk driving and underage drinking affects all of us. So I commend the Departments of Public Safety and Human Social Services for commemorating National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month and for their efforts against these vices.

Starting tonight and throughout next year – staff from these agencies will be tying more than 6,000 red ribbons on as many cars as they can – to remind our community **NOT TO DRINK AND DRIVE** and as a

**pledge to buckle up and to drive safe and sober during the holidays and throughout the year.**

Don't forget the legal drinking age is twenty-one, not eighteen.

Please join me in supporting the "tie one on for safety" campaign: tie a red ribbon on your vehicle, be a designated driver and do not provide alcohol to our youth.

I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Years.

Soifua.

## **HISTORICAL NOTES**

*By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor*

**On December 15, 1926**, American Samoa's Governor, Captain Henry Francis Bryan (USN, Ret.) established the Department of Communications.

**On December 16, 1901**, Margaret Mead was the first baby born in the West Park Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to a Quaker academic family. Her Father, Edward Sherwood Mead, was a professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania. Her mother, Emily Fogg Mead, was a sociologist.

**On December 17, 1925**, in American Samoa, the Lauli'i-Faga'itua portion of the "William McKinley Memorial Road" was completed at a cost of \$24,098. Chief Le'iatu held a celebration and feast at Faga'itua to commemorate the event.

**On December 17, 1941**, the U.S. Navy began construction of USS *Alaska* at the New York Shipbuilding Yard. This 29,779-ton battlecruiser (which the Navy called a "large cruiser") was the first in a six-ship class which were built to counter the *Chichibu* class battlecruisers which Japan was reported to be building (but in fact was not) and also to combat the German Navy's *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau*, *Prinz Eugen* and "pocket battleships" such as the *Graf Spee*. The *Alaskas* had nine 12-inch 50-caliber guns, and were the only American vessels armed with these rifles. The ships in this class were named after U.S. Territories: USS *Alaska* (CB-1); USS *Guam* (CB-2); USS *Hawaii* (CB-3); USS *Philippines* (CB-4); USS *Puerto Rico* (CB-5), and USS *Samoa* (CB-6). The first two cruisers were completed in June and September, 1944, respectively, and saw action from the Okinawa campaign (April 1945) to the end of the Pacific war. USS *Hawaii* was laid up incomplete in 1945, and the last three were cancelled on June 24, 1943. Thus, only one U.S. Navy vessel, the captured, refitted and renamed SS *Staatssekretär Solf*, bore the name *Samoa*. (See the entries for August 6, 1914 and April 7, 1917).

**On December 18, 1900**, the chiefs of Tutuila congratulated U.S. President William McKinley on his re-election, and expressed their admiration for Governor Benjamin Franklin Tilley, saying "...you gave us a leader, a Governor, a High Chief, whom we have learned to love and respect." The Reverend Ebenezer Vicesimus Cooper of the London Missionary Society added his praise, writing that "I cannot conceive of your finding a better man to represent your government in such delicate matters as must always be associated with the task of 'annexing' than Commander Tilley."

**On December 19, 1968**, in a letter to Secretary of the Interior-Designate Walter J. Hickel, Seattle publisher (*Marine Digest*) and Republican stalwart John Morse Haydon asked to be considered for the governorship of American Samoa. He had earlier expressed interest in being High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and in the governorship of Guam, but decided against it. Washington's Democratic Senator Henry M. ("Scoop") Jackson felt that there would be a political controversy generated by the appointment of "a Caucasian" to that post, in view of Guam's upcoming gubernatorial election (its first) in 1970. Mr. Haydon felt that American Samoa's climate would be good for Mrs. (Jean P.) Haydon's health. (She was suffering from lung cancer).



## DYWA hosts meeting for youth directors and sets Youth Conference for Dec. 28



*The Department of Youth & Women's Affairs (DYWA) met on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> with local community youth directors to discuss objectives that include giving youth service providers and agencies the opportunity to present their services to youth leaders and participants. (Pictured, front row, l to r): Rev. Fa'apea Elia (Methodist Church Youth Director), Pastor Levi F. Laga'aia (Seventh Day Adventist Church Youth Director), Rev. Logologo Fa'alemiga (Assemblies of God Youth Director), DYWA Director Leiataua Leuga Turner, and DYWA staff member Cynthia Malala. (Standing, l to r): Rev. Miracle Tilo (Voice of Christ Vice President), Rev. Tumau Petaia (CCCAS Education Department and Youth Ministries Director), DYWA Deputy Director Roy Ausage, VOC Totino, and Father Kelemete L. Pua'auli (Catholic Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago - Youth Director). [photo:americansamoa.gov]*

The Department of Youth & Women's Affairs (DYWA) held a meeting for local youth directors on Wednesday, December 12, at the DOC conference room in Utulei to discuss objectives that include giving youth service providers and agencies the opportunity to present their services to youth leaders and participants.

The meeting was attended by Rev. Fa'apea Elia (Methodist Church Youth Director), Pastor Levi F. Laga'aia (Seventh Day Adventist Church Youth Director), Rev. Logologo Fa'alemiga (Assemblies of God Youth Director), Rev. Miracle Tilo (Voice of Christ Vice President), Rev. Tumau Petaia (CCCAS Education Department and Youth Ministries Director), Rev. Father Kelemete L. Pua'auli (Catholic of Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago Youth Director), DYWA Deputy Director Roy Ausage, and DYWA staff member Cynthia Malala.

DYWA director Leiataua Leuga Turner presided over the meeting.

Some of the objectives on the agenda included discussions on ways to familiarize youth leaders and participants on the services currently available to them, and allowing them to provide recommendations on those same services.

In addition, DYWA wants to evaluate and assess existing youth services to identify any gaps in such services, and the goal of the discussions is to provide DYWA management with some assistance in their efforts to design youth programs to close those existing gaps in youth services.

Another objective mentioned included enabling youth service providers to collaborate, network, and share resources to service youth needs, and assisting in the development of the Territory's National Youth Policy.

"I truly believe we will gain from the conference ways to promote and forge networks and share knowledge, ideas, and solutions in youth issues," said Leiataua. "It will be a great forum for young people as well as youth service providers to discuss the impact of many social issues and the well-being of our young people with both youth service providers from the government and the community."

With school on Christmas vacation, a Youth Conference has been scheduled for Friday, December 28 to be attended by Governor Togiola Tulafono with proposed participation by youth organizations such as: Teen Challenge, PICED and ASPIRC, YANA, Adult Basic Education & Upward Bound at ASCC, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program from the Department of Human Resources, the Job Corps Program at the Senate, AmeriCorp program of the American Samoa Special Services Commission, Intersections Crossroads Theatre for Youth (CTY), the Humanities Council, Drug and Alcohol programs from the Department of Health and the Department of Human and Social Services, DHSS Crisis Line, DOH's HIV & AIDS program, and the Coalition on Teenage Pregnancy Prevention. *(Continued on page 4)*

## DOC releases official estimate of territory's population

As of July 1, 2007, the official estimate of American Samoa's population was 68,200. According to the Statistics Division of the ASG Department of Commerce, the territory's population estimates have increased steadily by an average of about 1,500 people each year in the years following the 2000 census, with the exception of 2007.

This is due largely to the big drop in local births which was down by nearly 300 this year compared to last year. In the past ten years, according to DOC, "total births have dropped, perhaps due to the successful family planning programs and active participation in the labor force."

The decrease in the number of births is accompanied by a death rate which has remained below 300 a year.

The American Samoa Census 2000 which was released by the United States Bureau of the Census counted 57,291 persons living in American Samoa, which was much lower than what was estimated. However, the local population is considered one of the fastest growing ones in the Pacific Region.

The growth can be attributed to the natural growth of the resident population (births minus deaths) with the assumed balance migration.

According to the DOC, "The historical migration trend from arrival/departure statistics proves invalid due to the absence of detailed immigration travel data. However, Port Administration data on deplanes and enplanes provides a secondary dataset for trend movements and analysis."

The DOC reports that recent immigration data shows numerous American Samoa nationals are migrating to the US mainland. Between 2005-2006, approximately 3,600 local residents moved off island for various reasons that included military service, education, or better opportunities.

But the out-movement is replaced with the 3,200 people visiting families, friends, and relatives who have remained in the territory.

The Annual Population Growth Rate is 2 percent.

The population growth has slowed down in the past ten years as the number of newborns has dropped below the 1,500 mark.

"The continuous drop in the number of newborns and the drop in growth rate are indications of declined fertility as more women take on an active role in the local economy and/or move off-island for continuous education and military services," the DOC reported.

Vital statistics data is considered fairly complete. Natural growth is now at an estimated 1,200 while the territory's Crude Birth Rate (CBR) stands at 21.6 per 1,000 population.

The Crude Death Rate (CDR) is 4.0 per 1,000 population.

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is at 11.8 per 1,000 live births while the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) is 6.2 per 1,000 live births.

Crude Birth Rates have dropped from around 40 per 1,000 population into the nineties to most recently 22 per 1,000 population.

The following is a list of the population estimates since the beginning of the new millennium.

2007 – 68,200
2006 – 66,900
2005 – 65,500
2004 – 64,100
2003 – 62,600
2002 – 60,800
2001 – 59,400

## DYWA hosts meeting for youth directors *(from page 3)*

"The dialogue and input at the conference will assist DYWA to develop policies and initiatives to deliver better services to meet the needs of American Samoa's young people. So we need to hear the presentations and participate in the discussions," Leiataua said. "It is always important for early intervention and prevention, so we need to identify the role of schools and youth organizations with which young people are regularly engaging. It is necessary that we encourage, promote, and maintain that support and responsiveness to the youth issues. That support needs to be continuous. What is required is more creative engagement of the youth."

Leiataua concluded, "I truly hope for a respectful response to the conference because young people are the focus. It's important to find creative ideas and solutions in our approach to working with the youth and encouraging them to share voice their concerns as well as share their respective approaches with youth service providers and other young people to making good choices for the betterment of the youth, the community, and the government."





*The ASCC Fall 2007 graduating class gather here for a portrait. This semester's Graduation Ceremony will place Friday, December 14, 2007 at 10 a.m. in the ASCC Gymnasium. (Courtesy Photo)*

## ASCC Fall 2007 Graduation

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) held its Graduation ceremony for the fall 2007 semester Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Gymnasium. While the Student Services division of the College has yet to confirm the exact number of graduates, early reports indicate that Friday's ceremony may see the largest number ever for a December graduation. "If all the students eligible to graduate pass their exams and fulfill all other remaining requirements, then we should have approximately 135 students receiving their diplomas this Friday," said Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i.

Ituau Malosi Representative Taotasi Archie Soliai provided Friday's keynote speech, and other dignitaries such as Hon. Gov. Togiola Tualafono, Bishop Sonny Aiono, ASCC Financial Aid Board chairman Rev. Ned Ripley, and members of the Board of Higher Education traditionally joined the College's administration and faculty for the festivities.

In addition to its spring ceremony, ASCC has also held a graduation in the fall since 1997. "Prior to this, students who completed their graduation requirements in the fall would have to wait until the end of the spring semester if they wanted to take part in the ASCC graduation ceremony, so ten years ago we added the December graduation" explained Dr. Le'i.

The December ASCC graduation ceremony took awhile to catch on, but over the years more and more students have opted to receive their diplomas in the fall rather than the spring. "Our very first fall graduation had less than 40 students," recalled Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham, but it looks like this semester we'll have the largest number of fall graduates we've ever had."

## ASEPA develops plan to address the need to monitor non-point source pollution

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) has developed the ASEPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan to address the need to monitor for non-point source pollution in American Samoa.

Two objectives of the ASEPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan are to determine whether nearshore marine water quality meets the American Samoa Water Quality Standards (ASWQS) for enterococci, and to inform the public when coastal recreation waters do not meet ASWQS for enterococci, as well as the potential risks associated with the polluted waters.

According to the ASEPA, a main group of pollutants which causes water quality impairments in American Samoa are pathogen indicators, specifically *enterococcus* in coastal recreation waters.

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency has created a file that contains the ASEPA Nearshore Marine Water Quality Monitoring Plan, a summary of historical bacteriological data of coastal recreation waters, the American Samoa Water Quality Standards, and the advisory format used to give notice to the public that the coastal recreation waters are not meeting or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards for enterococci.

These documents are available for viewing to the public at the ASEPA office in Utulei. ASEPA invites public comments concerning the monitoring and public notification program regarding:

- (1) The beach evaluation and classification process, including a list of waters to be monitored and beach ranking;
- (2) The sampling design and monitoring plan, including sampling location and sampling frequency; and
- (3) The public notification and risk communication plan, including methods to notify the public of a beach advisory.

Comments must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the published date of this notice. Submit comments to the ASEPA office or by mail to the ASEPA Water Program, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799.

More information can be obtained by contacting Edna Buchan or LT Elena Vaouli at the ASEPA office at 633-2304.

## USDA Visit to ASCC Focuses on Tilapia Feed

**(Press Release)** The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, housed in the Land Grant program at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), sponsored a visit by Dr. Chorn Lim, who was on island December 13. He was visiting Tutuila from the USDA Agriculture Research Service office in Alabama, and was accompanied by Dr. Darren Okimoto, the extension leader for UH Sea Grant. As an animal nutrition scientist with the USDA, Dr. Lim has extensive experience with creating diets for tilapia.

While on the island, Dr. Lim visited tilapia farmers in order to assess the scope of their needs. He also visited farmers of local produce to determine the availability of products that could be useful in producing locally made tilapia feeds.

Fishmeal is another important component of tilapia feeds, and Dr. Lim hopes to visit the local tuna canneries to tour their fishmeal processing facilities.

Dr. Lim will conducted a workshop on tilapia nutrition from 9:00am to 1:00pm on Wednesday, December 12, in the Land Grant conference room at ASCC. The workshop provided training on the nutrient requirements, feed formulation and processing, and feeding practices for tilapia. Individuals interested in producing his or her own tilapia feeds attended the workshop.

Please contact Ephraim Temple, the UH Sea Grant extension agent for American Samoa, for more information. Temple can be reached on mobile number 731-8169.



*Tilapia, like the ones seen surfacing here, can provide an abundant source of food and extra income for American Samoa. CNR/Land Grant hosted a free workshop on tilapia nutrition.  
(Courtesy Photo)*

## Community Alliance

In October 2007, the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) began a new endeavor to assist the Territorial Registrar's office (TRO) automate its records. The ultimate goal in this effort is to link the GIS database at DBAS (a DOI funded project) with property records at TRO. To facilitate this goal, DBAS has contributed PCs, software applications and extensive staff time to create a database for TRO, train TRO staff, and to improve this database with the goals of providing accurate and precise information from the DBAS GIS database. The new computerized TRO database will create a reliable source of information that will help the community avoid potentially costly and protracted court cases.

The initial phase of this project included donation of staff time, two PCs, and software to create and maintain a database. The DBAS staff assisted TRO management to convert the first of nine database libraries, "Native Land Titles" into a Microsoft Access database and trained its staff to add, delete and modify records. DBAS resources are committed to automation of all nine TRO libraries (Native Land Titles, Land Transfers & Individually Owned Land, Lease Agreements/ Communal Land Leases, Government Lands & Leases, Separation Agreements, Matai Titles, Corporations, General Miscellaneous and House Leases). The information is currently kept in log books and some of the older books are so brittle that they are best suited for archival preservation and not daily use. The future phases of this project include donation of a printer, training of staff printing reports and scanning the old documents so they can be accessed electronically with the originals archivally preserved as historical documents. These databases will be created in Microsoft Access format and can be easily converted to any Windows-compatible application. Funding for a new TRO archival system is expected to be available in the near future.

Please check the DBAS website (<http://www.dbas.org>) periodically for updates to this section.